



GROUND COVER

NEWS AND SOLUTIONS FROM THE GROUND UP

JULY 2018 VOLUME 9 ISSUE 7

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Art Break
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Washtenaw losing 800 units of affordable housing as complexes return to market rate – more to come?



by Susan Beckett
Publisher

The already short supply of affordable housing, especially near bus lines, is poised to become considerably tighter in the next four years. The owners of 837 units are positioned to stop offering subsidized housing, and another with 120 units will soon be eligible to do the same.

The properties that are in the process of returning to market rate rentals are: Liberty Grand Apartments, Woodchase Club Apartments, Huron Ridge Apartments, Cross Street Village, Lexington Club of Ann Arbor (also known as Lynden Parke) and Arbor Pointe Apartments. Huron Heights has started the process and awaits approval.

All these units were subsidized by the federal government when they were

developed through the Low Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) program. In return for 10 years' worth of hefty tax credits for the financing agents, the rents on these units were tied to a percentage of the Area Median Income (AMI). The properties could not discriminate against housing choice voucher holders, and tenants could only be evicted if the owner had good cause.

Many affordable housing properties were built in Washtenaw County in the late 1990s, financed by the LIHTC program. Under the terms of the program, those units designated for affordable housing must adhere to those conditions for a minimum of 15 years. There is also an additional 15-year extended use period during which some reporting requirements are relaxed but the rental requirements stay nearly intact.

Unfortunately, a quirk in the program (called the qualified contract process) allows LIHTC property owners to opt out of the program after the first 15 years.

Because of our county's hot real estate market, the owners of many of these LIHTC-financed projects are now choosing to use this process to opt out. When owners decide to use the qualified contract process, the Michigan State Housing Development Authority (MSHDA) has one year to find a property buyer who will maintain the rent caps for the remainder of the extended use period. If a qualified buyer is not found within one year, the property owner is released from all restrictions, except for a three-year protection period for existing tenants.

Tenants are notified within 14 days of the start of the one-year search for a qualified purchaser. The building owner or representative must be available to answer tenant questions and concerns. During the protection period, existing tenants cannot be evicted without cause and their rate increases are subject to the prevailing Average Monthly Income (AMI) percentages. New tenants receive no protection. After the three-year protection period expires, the owners can raise rents to market rate for all tenants and evict them without cause.

Liberty Grand Apartments, now operating as The Park at Sagebrush Circle, entered their three-year protection period in May of 2014, so tenants in their 143 units could see drastic rate increases at any time. One-bedroom apartments there are now listed with rents beginning at \$1,369.

Woodchase started their three-year protection period in October of 2016 and would therefore be eligible to return to market rate rents for their 143 units in October of 2019. Arbor Pointe entered their three-year protection period in November of 2016 so tenants in their 215 units will lose protections in November of 2019. Cross Street Village, a senior living community in Ypsilanti, started their three-year protection period in August of 2017. Huron Ridge Apartments (143 units) and Lexington Club/Lynden Parke (94 units) began their three-year protection periods this year.

Huron Heights (120 units) just applied to opt out so they are at least four years from returning to market rate rentals.

Due to these LIHTC properties opting out of the program, it appears likely that Washtenaw County will lose 837 units of affordable housing by April of 2021 and more after that through 2023. Critically, this means we are also losing properties that are required to accept housing choice voucher holders. This troubling development will make it considerably more difficult for voucher holders to find housing in Washtenaw County or force voucher holders into poorer neighborhoods – further from transit, jobs and other opportunities.

“The federal government has all but abandoned public sector ownership of affordable housing and we are seeing the impact with the increase in homelessness in the past 50 years. If our society continues to rely on private for-profit developers to provide housing that is affordable to low-income residents, then we should be prepared for increased inequity, poverty, and homelessness. And that is unacceptable. We need mission-driven non-profit and public-sector ownership with sufficient resources to ensure that

everyone has a roof over their head, a place to take a shower and cook a meal,” said Jennifer Hall, Executive Director of the Ann Arbor Housing Commission.

In 2005, MSHDA began requiring new LIHTC property developers to waive their right to use the qualified contract process, ensuring that properties developed after this date will remain affordable for the entire 30 years. Even 30 years go by quickly, so it would behoove us to have as many new affordable housing projects as possible owned by non-profit or public-sector agencies such as Avalon Housing or the Ypsilanti and Ann Arbor Housing Commissions, who will preserve these as affordable units for the duration of their usability.

It is fortunate that the City of Ann Arbor has the option now to build a substantial number of affordable units in downtown on the old Y lot and to require some affordable units in the new high rise slated for the Library Lot. Moreover, \$5 million from the sale of the Library Lot will go into the Ann Arbor Housing Fund and can be used for the construction of new housing.

Ann Arbor City Council should be urged to use these opportunities to fill the existing need and the impending need that will likely coincide with the completion of the new buildings. Removing the state prohibition on inclusive zoning (to require some affordable units in every new complex) would also help enormously.

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#groundcovernews

A community mosaic – wisdom held in common



by Rev Dr.
Martha Brunell
Groundcover
Contributor

I love potluck meals. I don't mean the ones where you are assigned a dish to bring according to the first letter of your last name. I have a fondness for the wide-open ones where you never know what others will be offering – a family treasure, an ethnic specialty, a favorite comfort food, a last-minute takeout purchase, or a new recipe cooked or baked for the first time. The combination that emerges is always unique.

I am not a quilter but I have long been drawn to patchwork quilts, especially crazy quilts with their irregular designs or old-time quilts with patches created from worn-out aprons or shirts, a dress now too small or remnants of various sewing projects. Such quilts are like a library, an assemblage of fabric telling story after story.

I make a habit of stopping to enjoy mosaics. There is the beautiful parking lot wall of the former beehive bookstore in Delaware, Ohio. A reading mermaid sparkles with multiple colors. The fragments reflect from a pool of water in south Saint Louis' Francis Park. Tucked in the middle of a neighborhood block

on a north-south running street in Chicago are brilliant monarch butterflies caught in flight against red brick. Underneath your feet at the former

Salisbury and Blair bus stop in the Hyde Park neighborhood of north Saint Louis is a magic carpet. It commemorates a community tragedy and the stubbornness of hope nurtured by its neighbors. In all of these, hundreds of small pieces of glass in too many hues to count are set side by side.

They form striking patterns with an occasional found object designed into the mix.

Part of what has drawn me again and again to hospice care is its multi-disciplinary nature. Nurses and chaplains, home health aides, volunteers, social workers, bereavement specialists, a medical director and music therapists together weave a web of well-being. That web supports and sustains patients and their surrounding circle of family and friends through the challenge of change, the ache of good-byes, and gratitude for life shared. The strength

of hospice care is discovered across different pathways of training that head toward healing in end-of-life days.

“The concrete ways by which [Groundcover's] impact can be measured are only a portion of the story happening one month after another... regularly becoming a whole that exceeds the sum of who we are and what we pour into it.”

gathered or given. It may take time to figure out how the pieces will arrange themselves. There are often options to consider and choices to be made.

For me there is wisdom in these four – potluck meal, quilt, mosaic and multi-disciplinary team – for the wider Groundcover News community of writers, vendors, advertisers, readers and other supporters throughout Washtenaw County. The differences among us are considerable and not always easy to navigate. And yet each month since the summer of 2010, the paper has come out as a micro-economic project, a justice and truth-telling commitment around homelessness and related issues, and a reliable and resilient creative effort. The concrete ways by which the paper's impact can be measured are only a portion of the story happening one month after another. I want to pause to honor this as the paper enters another year of publication this summer, regularly becoming a whole that exceeds the sum of who we are and what we pour into it. The wisdom of potluck meals, quilts, mosaics and multi-disciplinary teams is the wisdom of Groundcover News, too.

GROUNDCOVER MISSION:

Creating opportunity and a voice for low-income people while taking action to end homelessness and poverty.

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Primary election looms large in Ann Arbor and Ypsilanti

by The CivCity Initiative (*CivCity.org*)

On Tuesday, August 7, voters across the country will head to the polls for a primary election. Most will be picking candidates from the major parties for the November 6 general election.

But in Ann Arbor and Ypsilanti, the August primary may be more important than the November general election! Why? Because in many local races,

Democrats are the only ones running for office. So, the Aug. 7 Democratic primary might be the only time when voters have a choice of candidates.

We'll be voting for mayor and city council. Candidates for Washtenaw County commissioner, state legislature and governor will also be on the ballot. And voters will decide whether to OK a tax renewal for The Ride, our public transit system.

Are you a voter? You must be registered by Monday, July 9 if you want to vote on Aug. 7. Go to Michigan.gov/Vote to find out if you're registered or to get a voter registration form. You also can register in person at your local clerk's office. In Ann Arbor, the clerk's office is located on the second floor of City Hall, 301 E. Huron. The Ypsilanti clerk is at 1 S. Huron Street.

On Election Day, polls are open from 7

a.m. to 8 p.m. At your polling location, you'll be asked to show your photo ID – a driver's license, military ID or other government-issued ID. If you don't bring one, you can still vote but you'll be asked to sign a form stating that you didn't bring your photo ID.

You can find more info about local candidates and ballot proposals at AnnArborVotes.org or Vote411.org.

The deep roots of #MeToo – a history of the Suffragette movement

by Will Shakespeare

Groundcover Vendor #258

“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the World. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.”

– Margaret Mead

Historians describe the Women's Suffrage Movement as the most significant achievement by women during the Progressive Era, that period between the 1890s and 1920s. While abolitionists, activists and other supporters played significant roles, the Seneca Falls (New York) Convention of 1848 was viewed as “the meeting that launched the suffrage movement.”

As it happened, Lucretia Mott invited Elizabeth Cady Stanton to have tea with four friends. The five women in upstate New York had an intense conversation about women's issues and agreed to convene the first Women's Rights Convention at Seneca Falls. Over 200 women were in attendance. Forty men, including abolitionist Fredrick Douglass, participated in the Convention.

Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan

B. Anthony are generally credited as the leaders of the suffrage movement for some 21 years. They co-wrote several volumes of the book, “History of Woman Suffrage,” a monumental history of the women's suffrage movement published in six volumes between 1881-1922.

Anthony and Stanton complemented each other. Anthony excelled at organizing and Stanton had an aptitude for intellectual matters and writing. Stanton wrote speeches that Anthony delivered. Because of Anthony's community mobilization and speaking skills, she became the iconic personality of the movement for women's legal, social and political rights. Historians give equal recognition to Stanton.

But even well-known women reformers in the suffrage movement could not get politicians to listen to them because they had not secured the right to vote. For several decades, they lobbied Congress to introduce a constitutional amendment. Anthony was rebuked when she tried to speak at the New York State Temperance Convention. The men told her that “ladies have been invited to listen and learn, and not to speak.”

After Seneca Falls, suffragist leaders such as Lucy Stone and Paulina Wright Davis led a series of Women's Rights Conventions in Worcester, Mass., in the 1850s and 1860s. Most suffrage leaders, black and white, were aligned with the abolitionist movement of the 19th century.

By 1869, Anthony and Stanton led the National Woman Suffrage Association (NWSA), while the American Woman Suffragist Association (AWSA) was led by Lucy Stone, Elizabeth Blackwell and Julia Ward Howe. AWSA supported the 15th Amendment as was written. NWSA opposed the 15th Amendment of 1870, ending voting discrimination based on race, and the 14th amendment of 1868, providing equal protection under the law. The reason for NWSA's opposition was that Anthony, Stanton and some suffragists preferred “universal suffrage” – the right to vote of *all* adult citizens.

The ideological difference was intense. Abolitionist Fredrick Douglass, who called himself a “women's rights man” and was the only black man at the Seneca Fall Convention, was angry

see SUFFRAGE, page 5

Milestones in the Women's Rights Movement

First Wave

1848: The Seneca Falls Convention of 1848 was viewed as “the meeting that launched the suffrage movement.”

Second Wave

1963: The publication of “The Feminine Mystique,” by Betty Freidan, ushered in women's rights, equal rights and gender consciousness of the 1960s and 1970s.

Third Wave

Early 1990s: Professor Anita Hill's sexual misconduct accusations of Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas sparked widely publicized hearings by the U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee.

Fourth Wave

2012: A resurgence of interest in feminist thinking, especially the issues of technology, justice for women, and opposition to sexual harassment and violence towards women, leading to the present #MeToo movement.

A history of the Suffragette movement

continued from page 4

because “Anthony and Stanton insisted on property ownership and a literacy requirement for black males who would get the right to vote ahead of females.”

Eventually, AWSA and NWSA merged in 1890 as NAWSA – the National American Woman Suffrage Association – with Anthony as the leader.

Black Women Pioneers

Many historians and feminist writers have said that people who told the story of the suffrage movement overlooked the contributions of African-American women pioneers who helped to secure women's right to vote. Sojourner Truth, Ida B. Wells-Barnett, Mary Church Terrell, Francis Ellen Watkins Harper, Harriett Tubman, Mary M. Bethune, Ella Baker and several notable black suffragists worked as hard as Anthony and Stanton to achieve the right to vote. They fought alongside the lower-class women. They did not see the suffrage movement as a movement for only middle-class whites.

Born into slavery and deprived of a formal education, Sojourner Truth nevertheless became a particularly influential figure in the movement. Her most famous speech, “Ain't I a Woman?” (1851), was delivered extemporaneously and became widely known during the Civil War.

Anna Julia Cooper, who had a master's degree in mathematics, also gave a moving speech that resonates with many of today's black women scholars. The title was, “Only Black Women Can Say When and Where I Enter.” Cooper also gave an impressive speech at the 1893 Chicago World's Fair in support of black women suffragists. In it she said, “I speak for the colored women

of the South because it is there that the millions of blacks in this country have watered the soil with blood and tears, and it is there too that the colored woman of America has made her characteristic history, and her destiny is evolving.”

African American women had to contend with the sexism of being denied the right to vote, but also the racism of some white suffragists. They petitioned, they lobbied, they gave speeches, they organized, they mobilized and they marched in parades. As journalist Michelle Barnard said in *The Washington Post* of March 3, 2013, “Despite the tremendous risk, African American women marched for suffrage, too.” Black female reformers and suffragists soldiered on.

Frances Ellen Harper said, “No race can afford to neglect the enlightenment of its mothers.” Exclusionary practices were obvious and ubiquitous. Black women worked very hard to organize and have their own groups.

In 1896, the National Federation of Afro-American Women (NFAW) merged with the National League of Colored Women (NLCW) to form the National Association of Colored Women (NACW) with suffragist leader Mary Church Terrell as the first president. NACW maintained an organization called the “Equal Suffrage League.” That was the rapid deployment vehicle for club mobilization and supporting the right to vote.

War and progress

When Alice Paul of NAWSA organized the famous march of 1913 to demonstrate against President-Elect Woodrow Wilson in Washington, D.C., Mary Church Terrell, Ida B. Wells and several Delta Sigma Theta sorority

members from Howard University joined the march with enthusiasm and a sense of mission. NACW maintained a separate suffrage office.

World War I had a major impact on the suffrage movement. A significant number of states in the West, Midwest and Northeast started to enact women's suffrage laws. Their efforts provided the political opportunity for a broader change.

In 1916, the suffragists used their formidable political power to campaign for the 19th amendment in various states. In that year, President Wilson sent a letter to Congress in support of the women's right to vote. Congresswoman Janet Rankin of Montana introduced the bill for women's suffrage. It passed in both Houses of Congress and was ratified in August of 1920 with the following statement: “The rights of the Citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex.”

As we strive forward in this new century, women's rights should not be taken for granted. Women of new generations should be grateful, knowing that women in the past secured victories that made lives and circumstances much better for



Susan B. Anthony, Sojourner Truth, Alice Paul, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Ida B. Wells and Lucy Stone (left to right, top to bottom) were prominent suffragist leaders.

American women of all generations. Countless others since – notably, the recently emerged #MeToo movement – have remained vigilant to protect and extend that progress.

Yet, glass ceilings still exist and pay equity has not been achieved. Domestic violence against women has not been stopped, and sexual harassment is still a major issue in our national dialogue. However, there are hopes and dreams. The suffragists were right about the power of the ballot. The 19th Amendment and women's rising political power have changed the world, and will continue to make a difference, so long as they are safeguarded and put to use.

Strange (but Mostly True) Stories About a Mother and her Daughter • Cy Klone © 2018



Voting rights for all – including the homeless

by Elizabeth S. Kurtz, aka “Lit”
Groundcover Vendor #159

Prior to 1984, an American experiencing homelessness could not exercise the right to vote.

During the 1980s when homelessness headlined as a crisis, court cases sprang up around the country that challenged denying a person the vote based on residency status.

In 1984, three precedent-setting cases were heard, each determining that the lack of conventional housing could not exclude an individual from voter registration.

The exact language in *Pitts v. Black*, the first challenged case in the state of New York, concluded that:

... states should use a broad interpretation of the term “residence” to include any place, including a

non-traditional dwelling, that an individual inhabits with the intent to remain for an indefinite period. It is now legal for citizens experiencing homelessness to vote in every state.

Michigan citizens who are experiencing homelessness, for example, are able to use the intersection of where they spend nights as an address.

Now that the Michigan League of Women Voters is pushing the “Pro-

mote the Vote” campaign with increased flexibility for all voters, it is imperative that those experiencing homelessness recognize their rights.

At least one information session will be held at the Delonis Center prior to the July 9 registration deadline for the primary elections in Michigan. Please help spread the word of the important right that has been afforded to all.

Art for heart's sake: ArtBreak at Delonis chalk drawing with David Zinn

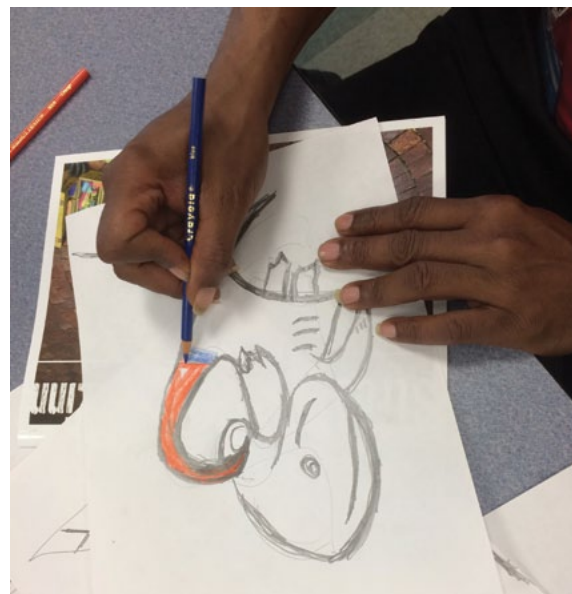
by Sue Budin and Genevieve Shapiro
Groundcover Contributors

"Add lots of little critters," said one participant. Another said, "[If I could add to this picture], I would have him looking at something beyond because he's curious." These are two of many comments made by people engaging with art on May 16 at the ArtBreak Studio.

ArtBreak is a weekly drop-in art program serving people who are homeless, and those at risk of homelessness, at the Delonis Center – the overnight shelter located in Ann Arbor. Sessions are on Wednesdays from 1:30-3:30 from September through May.

David Zinn, well-known chalk artist whose whimsical characters grace the sidewalks and walls of Ann Arbor, led the May 16 ArtBreak session. Zinn began by telling stories of his own experiences with art from when he was a child. Art provided a refuge and a means of creative expression for a shy boy.

Zinn put participants at ease by giving an example of how to overcome obstacles – a lesson in art and also in life



ArtBreak participants turned squiggles on paper into fanciful creatures on paper (center) then translated their work to adorn an outside wall (left) and sidewalk area (right). Cover artwork was done by illustrator Genevieve Shapiro.

– explaining how he created an animal called a "dogtopus." "I can't draw dogs' knees. They come out all squiggly. So I had two choices. I could dedicate time and hard work to learning how to draw them correctly, or I could just draw a dogtopus."

Papers and colored pencils were handed out and then Zinn described a "Doodle Battle." This involved making a scribble/doodle and then passing it to the person on the left. Once this

was done, Zinn encouraged them to find something in the scribble – a face, animal or fantastical creature – by turning the paper. They got to work and produced some incredible images: an elephant-like creature, sailboats, an exotic cat and many more.

Zinn coached, "You need emotion. People react to faces. Want to add power to a drawing of a flower? Draw a face on the flower."

Then it was time to go outside. The group was given permission to draw with chalk on the sidewalk and building. They riffed on their drawn images or came up with something new. The place burst with color, animals, faces, birds and trees.

Some made use of nozzles and pipes attached to the building to make faces, taking Zinn's advice to see "obstruction

see ART, page 11

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- Socially conscious business owner with local roots and global presence
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Faith in Action and Avalon bring affordable housing to Chelsea

by Susan Beckett

The first affordable housing project in Chelsea is complete. Sharon Ann Apartments were revealed to the public on June 14, 2018. A broad coalition of public, private and non-profit entities, along with many community members, contributed to the project and were there to celebrate its formal opening.

The 17 apartments include 11 one-bedroom units and 6 two-bedroom units, as well as an on-site laundry and community center. Some of the tenants are holdovers from the previous landlord but most are new. The three years of refurbishing were very taxing for those inhabiting the building at the time.

Avalon Housing is the property manager and supportive services are being provided by Doug Smith, a social worker with Faith in Action (FIA), the organization that runs food pantries in Dexter and Chelsea. It was FIA that initiated the project, having approached Avalon 10 years ago about the need for affordable housing in Chelsea, and identifying this property as a good fit. Smith met with the previous owner years ago and informed him of their interest in purchasing the building. Three years ago, the owner walked into FIA



Renter Tammy Diuble (right) shows her new apartment to community member Alex Rivera (left) and Avalon support person Arianne Clercum (center).

and said, "I'm ready to sell and I want to sell to you."

Everyone scrambled into action. The Corporation for Supportive Housing provided a bridge loan that, coupled with money from FIA and community donations, comprised the pre-development funding. Then at the urging of city government, Chelsea State Bank

stepped in and financed the construction loan with the help of Low Income Housing Tax Credits. The Jackson Housing Commission provided the project-based housing vouchers, which limit tenants' rent to 30 percent of their income. Even the owner of the neighboring Jiffy Mix plant, Howdy Holmes, helped out by quickly granting an easement to bring in water.

Reinhart realtor Dave Lutton, who, along with his wife Louise made a substantial donation to the project, commented that he knows first-hand how affordability is a worsening problem in the community.

"Folks living here [in Sharon Ann] were desperate to stay in this community and are thrilled to be living here," said Aubrey Patiño, Executive Director of Avalon Housing.

This was echoed by Sharon Ann resident Karen Miller, who moved into the complex midway through the refurbishing project. She grew up in Manchester, moved to Colorado for many years, and then returned and settled in Chelsea, a community she found ideal for raising her daughter. Miller lost her job a couple of years ago and worried. Smith advised her to apply for a unit at Sharon Ann. Despite arriving early, she was the nineteenth applicant and hadn't expected to get one of the apartments.

"I love the Chelsea schools, teachers and community. I love seeing the Clock Tower and Jiffy Mix towers from my apartment. And everything is brand-new. It is such a relief to be here."

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Fill in the squares so that each row, column, and 3-by-3 box contain the numbers 1 through 9.

Before It All Vegan

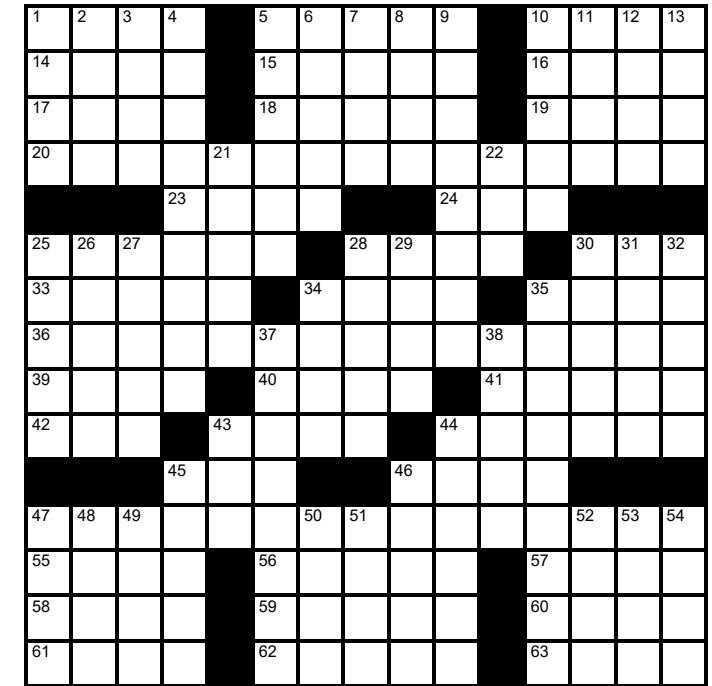
By Victor Fleming and Tracy Bennett

ACROSS

- 1 Wild party
- 5 "___ Navidad!"
- 10 Word best uttered with a melancholy sigh
- 14 Guthrie of folk
- 15 ___ acid
- 16 Soda synonym
- 17 Like some TV housewives, ironically
- 18 How grampa might've said "kew!"
- 19 "Star ___ Beyond"
- 20 Drink that may improve a tot's eyesight?
- 23 Skeptical
- 24 "Howzit goin'?"
- 25 Escape confinement
- 28 Put on an unhappy face
- 30 Up-in-the-air notation, initially
- 33 Make a big scene?
- 34 ___ torch
- 35 Betrayed, with "out"
- 36 "Mr." or "Mrs." toy that spent too long in the sun?
- 39 ___-I university (top school)
- 40 Actress (and UMich alum) Liu of "Elementary"
- 41 Like Vikings
- 42 Cunning
- 43 Precalc, e.g.
- 44 Cast a sidelong glance
- 45 C major or D minor
- 46 Medicinal ointment
- 47 Spaghetti topping desired by all?
- 55 Simpson kid
- 56 Boneless entree
- 57 Granny or half hitch
- 58 Higher than
- 59 Certain 61-Acrosses
- 60 Life change?
- 61 See 59-Across
- 62 Terse summons
- 63 Thatcher, to Streep

DOWN

- 1 Ill-fated "Stranger Things" girl
- 2 Carpet buyer's calculation
- 3 Bacon quantity
- 4 Baptism need



© Victor Fleming and Tracy Bennett (published via Adobe Acrobat DC)

- 5 Uncommissioned paintings of Lara Croft, e.g.
- 6 ___ board (nail file)
- 7 Dissembling sort
- 8 Fall ___ place (all work out)
- 9 Cab Calloway outfit style of the 1940s
- 10 Throw a tantrum
- 11 Actress Petty of "Tank Girl"
- 12 Actor Baldwin or Guinness
- 13 "Oh, for heaven's ___"
- 21 Minded
- 22 Project prominently
- 25 Student loans, e.g.
- 26 Teens won't read it
- 27 Hoosegow
- 28 "___ Perfect 3" (Anna Kendrick film)
- 29 So-so
- 30 ___ is human
- 31 Jaded
- 32 Summed up?
- 34 Hype like a huckster
- 35 Cobbler
- 37 Championship games
- 38 They study torts at UMich
- 43 "Have we ___ before?"
- 44 Reputed founder of Taoism
- 45 Maple Village big box store that closed in 2015
- 46 Non-varsity squad
- 47 Kerplunk kin
- 48 In the flesh
- 49 Takes unfair advantage of
- 50 One of the Indianapolis 500's 500
- 51 Downwind, on a ship
- 52 Reverse
- 53 Engine part
- 54 Luncheon ending

Washtenaw County Office of Community & Economic Development (OCED) has programs that can help eligible City of Ann Arbor residents facing utility shut-off.

WAYS WE HELP:

- One time payments on your water bill.
- Personal action plan.
- Access to other free programs.

FOR APPOINTMENTS, BRING:

- A Copy of Your Bill
- Applicant's Photo Identification (ID)
- Income Verification For ALL Household Members
- Proof of Residency

To qualify for utility assistance, applicants must meet ALL program requirements.

ARE YOU WATER BILL? UNABLE TO PAY YOUR

1

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

To qualify for water utility assistance, applicants must:

- Be a City of Ann Arbor resident
- Have their water currently shutoff **OR** in danger of shutoff due to being 1+ month behind
- Live at the billing **OR** service address
- Be at **OR** below 60% of Area Median Income

Household Size & Maximum Monthly Income

1- \$2579 5- \$3975
2- \$2946 6- \$4271
3- \$3313 7- \$4563
4- \$3679 8- \$4858

2

CONTACT AN AGENCY

- If you have an existing relationship with a Barrier Buster agency, please contact the agency.
- For a list of Barrier Buster agencies **OR** if you are not working with a Barrier Buster agency, call OCED at 734.544.6748.
- For other questions email: L-bbstaff@listserver.ewashtenaw.org



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The following list is our Vendor Code of Conduct, which every vendor reads and signs before receiving a badge and papers. We request that if you discover a vendor violating any tenets of the Code, please contact us and provide as many details as possible. Our paper and our vendors should be positively impacting our County.

All vendors must agree to the following code of conduct:

- Groundcover News will be distributed for a voluntary donation of \$2, or the face value of the paper. I agree not to ask for more than face value or solicit donations by any other means.
- I will only sell current issues of Groundcover News.
- I agree not to sell additional goods or products when selling the paper or to panhandle, including panhandling with only one paper.
- I will wear and display my badge when selling papers.
- I will only purchase the paper from Groundcover News Staff and will not sell to or buy papers from other Groundcover News

vendors, especially vendors who have been suspended or terminated.

- I agree to treat all customers, staff and other vendors respectfully. I will not "hard sell," threaten, harass or pressure customers, staff, or other vendors verbally or physically.
- I will not sell Groundcover News under the influence of drugs or alcohol.
- I understand that I am not a legal employee of Groundcover News but a contracted worker responsible for my own well-being and income.
- I understand that my badge is property of Groundcover News and will not deface it. I will present my badge when purchasing the papers.
- I agree to stay off private property when selling Groundcover News.
- I understand to refrain from selling on public buses, federal property or stores unless there is permission from the owner.
- I agree to stay at least one block away from another vendor. I will also abide by the Vendor corner policy.

If you see any Groundcover News vendors not abiding by the code of conduct, please report the activity to:

contact@groundcovernews.com
(734) 707-9210

Anthony Bourdain understood “the other”



by Elizabeth S. Kurtz, aka “Lit”
Groundcover
Vendor #159

Losing my conventional housing following one of Detroit’s massive teacher layoffs drastically changed the way that I viewed my world. In one fell swoop I slipped from middle class, teaching school and living in a comfortable apartment, to sleeping in my car and hunting down food and showers as one might search fast food restaurants for their favorite fare.

It was at that point that I began to brush up on my political awareness in a desperate search for answers that might change the circumstances which left me without conventional housing. Having joined a segment of what many call the Forgotten America, I did not have the luxury of being swayed by the media or public opinion or relying on others for choices.

The times spent barely surviving had taken their toll, and the barriers of color and the fragmented call for women’s rights began to recede and were supplanted by a strong desire to be extricated from my circumstances. I decided to dig beneath what seemed like the surface-only rhetoric of liberals and the

perceived stingy pockets of Republicans to seek answers unique to my plight. Surprisingly, my search for answers led me away from the Democratic party and into President Trump’s camp.

Though Anthony Bourdain fiercely denounced Trump, he had developed an intimacy with marginalized America which gave him a rare and treasured understanding of our need for change. As he traversed the country, he immersed himself into the depths of the lives of those on the periphery and developed a special bond with the many Americans who felt suppressed and left behind by past politics.

So while my candidate of choice seemed bizarre and counter-intuitive for a woman – a woman of African-American descent experiencing homelessness – Anthony Bourdain illuminated what others could not conceive. He understood the sense of urgency that had taken over many lives and the need for a hint of legislation which would save me and others like me from our plights.

He was unmistakable in his fight for Middle America, who he felt was misunderstood by his media counterparts, and unabashedly gave representation to that

voice. He was appalled by the disdain for the working middle class too often expressed by his liberal elitist peers.

In one of his most revealing articles, he was quoted as saying, “The utter contempt with which privileged Eastern liberals such as myself discuss red-state, gun-country, working-class America as ridiculous and morons and rubes is largely responsible for the upswell of rage and contempt and desire to pull down the temple that we’re seeing now.”

When I resided in the middle class, Anthony Bourdain’s “Parts Unknown” filled my television screen as he revealed the innards of society while relishing dishes that others would not dare touch.

When I became homeless, he continued to reveal that Americans like myself who have fallen onto the margins are more complex than the broad stroke with which society and the me-

dia paint us. He grasped that our political choices are born out of deep hurts and a genuine desire to be included in the American dream.

His career was fueled by a passionate attempt to blend the many flavors of the world to produce a melting pot where all could dine in peace and mutual respect. He left the world a better place because we were allowed to partake of his offerings.

His rare voice of understanding will be missed by me and by all who savor freedom of choice without ridicule.

To hear more of my commentary on this topic, visit YouTube and type “Anthony Bourdain and Starbucks” in the search bar.

An Homage

by Chris Splash
Groundcover Contributor

Picture a thousand words
Painted portraits of great precision
How they describe the splendid array
Bring to life a perfect vision
Hot pursuit oh worthy mission
Haunting pages on display
Forevermore for all to witness
When artists long have passed away
To reappear like apparitions
As if they’ve something more to say
These gifted works shall keep on giving
Like sunsets gift the world another day
Nights are filled with plenty wishes
Though so many go astray
Never to see them to fruition
Still hope inspires all the greats
To dream despite past failed ambitions
Continuing ever in the faith
For God created us in His image
Even though we make mistakes
He gives us room for our redemption
And the masterpieces we’ll create
Suffering is living
But through such works we escape
Pray for forgiveness
Our greatest gift is grace
Which is already in us if we’ve courage to face
What in the stars is written
Over the canvas of space
But many fates are hidden
By the choices that we make

We Are America

by Jeffrey Taite, AKA Jeffrey Bronze Eagle
Choctaw and Creek JBE

If I could only conduct my business by phone
I wouldn’t have trouble finding a home.
If I could be interviewed ... sight unseen
I’d probably be invited to join the team.
Why do you darken your skin in the sun,
Encounter my dark brother and turn and run?
I arrive at the job swarthy and clean;
You gaze upon me and your eyes turn mean.
I do the same job for lesser pay
“Keep up the good work,” is all you say.
You call me country and white trash
And treat me like I’m society’s rash.
I work the jobs that nobody wants
I live in despair as the country rants.
You accuse me of sending my money home
But after paying taxes and bills
There’s not enough left for a movie of thrills.
We are all trying to do our part
But you continue not to give us a start.
You clap your hands and ring the bell
While rising prices make life a real hell.
We are all America, legal or not
If we stop spending to support a trend
We will be forced to change the system
To heal and truly mend.



Crystal Morris, 1987-2018

Crystal Ludwig, 1987-2018, will be missed

Crystal’s life was turbulent but she lived exuberantly and was on a path to a better future that was abruptly terminated when she was only 31 years old. During an argument on the east side of Ann Arbor in the early morning hours of June 19, a woman stabbed Crystal and her fiancée, Louis Burbank. Crystal’s heart was badly injured and her brain was fatally damaged from the lack of oxygen.

The eldest of six children, Crystal is survived by her daughters La Teona, Ta Teona, Christeona and Glorieana, and her son Louis, her father and step-mother Lewis and Micki Ludwig, mother Dawn Mills, beloved grandmother Cathy Ludwig, aunt Hazel Ludwig, brothers Jesse and Jacob Mills and sisters Emma Mills and

Ashley and Tabitha Ludwig. Crystal, Vendor #147, sold Groundcover for a couple of years starting in 2013 and brought along Tabitha a couple years later. She was always there for Tabitha. She will be missed by them all, as well as by her many friends.

Fresh raspberry salad dressing

by Elizabeth Bauman
Groundcover Contributor

Ingredients

1/3 cup fresh raspberries
2 tablespoons red wine vinegar
1 tablespoon lemon juice
1 clove garlic chopped
1/2 teaspoon white sugar

1 pinch sea salt
1 pinch ground white pepper
6 tablespoons olive oil

Directions

Press raspberries through a fine-mesh sieve using a spoon to remove seeds.

Whisk raspberries, vinegar, garlic, sugar, sea salt and white pepper together

in a bowl. Slowly drizzle olive oil into raspberry mixture, whisking rapidly, until dressing is thick and creamy. Let sit until flavors develop, about 10 minutes.

Delicious with a salad of spinach, red onion, tomatoes and toasted almonds.



ArtBreak with David Zinn

continued from page 6

as opportunity.” People were so involved that they didn’t want to stop at the official time.

This is but one example of art projects designed by artists who volunteer their time, and often materials, to ArtBreak, founded last year by Becki Spangler, a retired social worker who puts enormous energy into the program. Her flyer states: “Creative self-expression inspires joy, feels productive, and allows a positive outlet for what’s pent up inside – and it is good for the soul.” This was evident from the faces and conversations and laughter around the table and outside. Spangler said one participant told her that this activity “gets him through the week.”

At first, Spangler said, people sat separately and didn’t engage with one another very much. There was sparse attendance. But now, everyone sits together at one large table, interacts easily and they often offer comments and support for each other’s work.

A good time is had by all, including volunteers – often retired art teachers. This creates a sense of community which is so important, Spangler says, in promoting trust and a feeling of safety among participants. An example was a concerted search by residents for some calligraphy materials lost by another resident in the program, something that might not have happened without the comradery established around the table.

ArtBreak activities have included Japanese fish painting, fruit prints, watercolor washes with poetry, wire sculptures and clay work. There are usually 10-12 “regulars” who come each week and two or three newcomers. The program has provided “art boxes” for each of the Delonis residents, not only those who come to Art Break, which can fit in their small amount of storage space. Each box contains crayons, colored pencils, paper and a glue stick. They are encouraged to use them to express feelings through art.

Plans call for a mural commissioned by the Delonis Center whose theme is “Reaching Out,” consisting of 40 separate canvases done by residents and staff who were inspired by the theme. It will grace a wall of the reception area at the Center after Memorial Day. In July, an exhibit of the residents’ work will be shown at the old Ann Arbor Post Office building located at 220 N. Main, now an annex of the County Building, during the Art Fair. This will be a cool place to relax and see some amazing art.

Art Break Studio is a community effort that depends on volunteers and donors. They are always looking for new people who would be fulfilled by getting to know and gently guide residents as they experience the joy of making art.

A resident who has participated in ArtBreak spoke eloquently of what landscapes, mountains and rivers in paintings represent to him, noting “the flow and serendipity that occur natu-

rally.” ArtBreak provides one outlet for that flow.

To learn more about ArtBreak, to volunteer or donate, go to their website: www.artbreak.studio.

Family tour trailer, more sponsors



by Kevin Spangler
Groundcover
Vendor #307

I realized this year that the town of Ann Arbor is the best place in the world to be in summer. There are so many special events, including the Mayor’s Green Fair, the A2 Summer Festival and the Art Fair. Boober is glad to be working towards helping everyone who comes to these events have fun while on Boober Tours.

News on our front is that I am in discussion with Trinity Lutheran Church to sponsor three cabs to help create more jobs for people in recovery.

Trinity is inviting me to speak to their congregation.

Also, Bank of Ann Arbor has decided to sponsor our family tour trailer, which will help create daytime positions for people in recovery who live in transition housing and must be home at night. This is a major milestone because I have been trying to figure this out since the beginning with a food delivery service.

It’s hot out there so we need to remember to stay hydrated. I personally only drink distilled water with a teaspoon of salted sole water added. Perhaps the best is fresh-made juice – there are so many benefits to juicing every day!

Thank you, Ann Arbor, for your generous donations. It’s the community of Ann Arbor that built Boober Tours.

PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

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| 36 | B | A | K | E | D | P | O | T | A | T | O | H |
| 39 | T | I | E | R | L | U | C | Y | N | O | R | S |
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| 55 | L | I | S | A | F | I | L | E | T | K | N | O |
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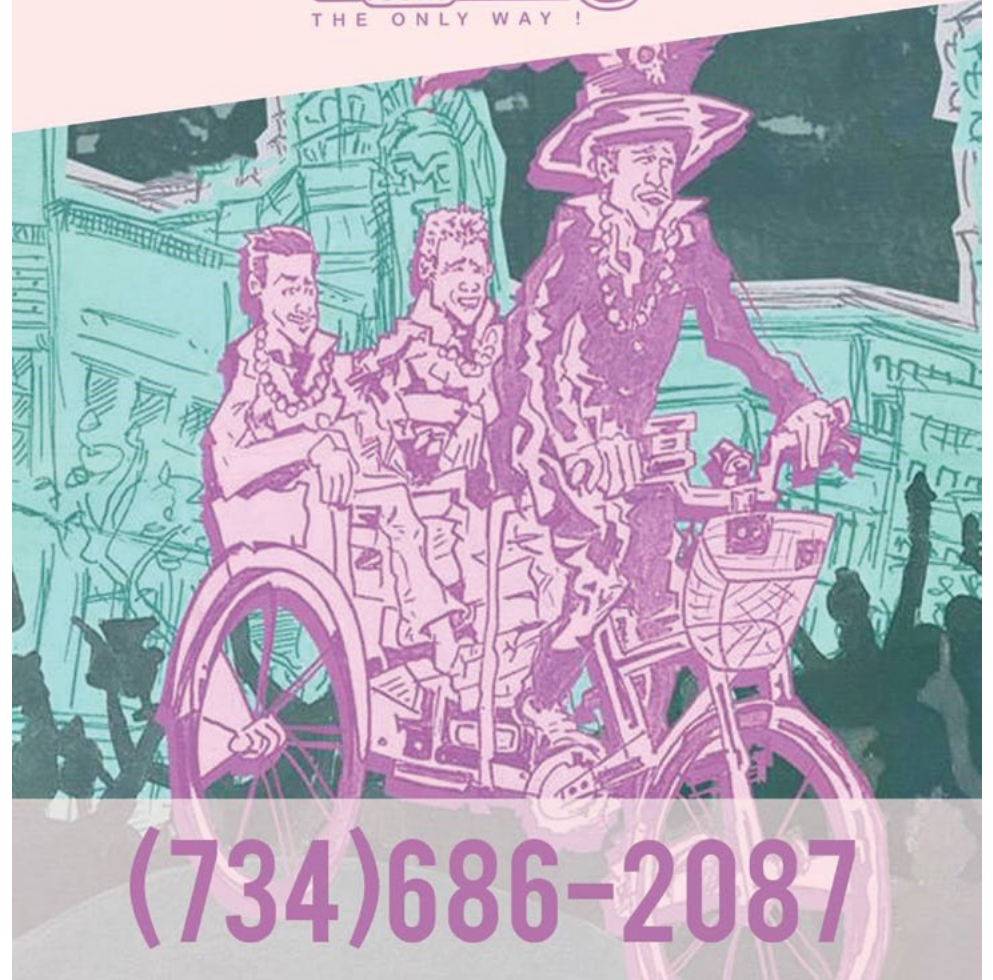
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